

**WE CLAIM:**

1           1.     A data communication system for a semiconductor memory system having at  
2     least one data path, the data communication system comprising:  
3                 a central data path including at least one junction circuit configured for  
4     exchanging data signals between the central data path and at least one data path of the at least  
5     one data path;  
6                 a respective one junction circuit of the at least one junction circuit including  
7     means for controlling resetting the respective one junction circuit for preparation of a  
8     subsequent data transfer through the respective one junction circuit in accordance with receipt  
9     of an input monitor signal indicating that data has been transferred to the respective one  
10    junction circuit.

1           2.     The data communication system of Claim 1, wherein the means for controlling  
2     resetting prevents resetting of the respective one junction circuit when data is being received  
3     by the respective one junction circuit.

1           3.     The data communication system of Claim 1, wherein the data communication  
2     system includes a plurality of data banks configured for storing data, and a corresponding  
3     data bank of the plurality of data banks is connected to a respective one data path of the at  
4     least one data path, the data communication system including:  
5                 means for controlling the respective one data path in accordance with receipt  
6     of a monitor signal indicating that a data transfer operation has been initiated for transfer of  
7     data to the respective one data path, the means for controlling including a means for

1 generating a control signal for controlling resetting of the respective one data path after data  
2 is transferred for preparation of a subsequent data transfer operation.

1 4. The data communication system of Claim 3, wherein the control signal is  
2 provided to the means for generating the control signal as a feedback signal.

1 5. The data communication system of Claim 1, wherein the input monitor signal  
2 indicates that a plurality of data signals are being transferred to the respective one junction  
3 circuit, and wherein the respective one junction circuit outputs an output monitor signal  
4 indicating that the plurality of data signals are being transferred from the respective one  
5 junction circuit.

1 6. The data communication system of Claim 5, wherein the respective one  
2 junction circuit includes a plurality of junction data lines for at least one of processing,  
3 receiving and transferring at least one of the input monitor signal, the plurality of data signals,  
4 and the output monitor signal.

1 7. The data communication system of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of  
2 junction data lines includes a plurality of input data signal lines and at least one input monitor  
3 signal line; and

4 wherein the respective one junction circuit receives the input monitor signal  
5 via an input monitor signal line of the at least one input monitor signal line, and a plurality of

1 input data signals via a group of input data signal lines of the plurality of input data signal  
2 lines.

1 8. The data communication system of Claim 6, wherein the respective  
2 one junction circuit of the at least one junction circuit includes a plurality of output data  
3 signal lines and at least one output monitor signal line; and  
4 wherein the respective one junction circuit outputs an output monitor signal  
5 via an output monitor signal line of the at least one output monitor signal line; and a plurality  
6 of output data signals via the plurality of output data line.

1 9. The data communication system of Claim 7, wherein the means for controlling  
2 resetting controls resetting of the input monitor signal line propagating the input monitor  
3 signal and the group of input data signal lines propagating the plurality of input data signals.

1 10. The data communication system of Claim 7, wherein the respective  
2 one junction circuit of the at least one junction circuit includes a plurality of output data  
3 signal lines and at least one output monitor signal line;  
4 wherein the respective one junction circuit outputs an output monitor signal  
5 via an output monitor signal lines of the at least one output monitor signal line, and a plurality  
6 of output data signals via a group of output data signal lines of the plurality of output data  
7 signal lines; and  
8 wherein the input monitor signal is received from one of a data path of the

1 plurality of data paths and the output monitor signal line of another junction circuit of the at  
 2 least one junction circuit, and the plurality of input data signals is received from one of a data  
 3 path of the plurality of data paths and the group of output data signal lines of the another  
 4 junction circuit of the at least one junction circuit.

1 11. The data communication system of Claim 8, wherein the plurality of  
 2 junction data lines includes a plurality of input data signal lines and at least one input monitor  
 3 signal line;

4 wherein the respective one junction circuit receives the input monitor signal  
 5 via an input monitor signal line of the at least one input monitor signal line, and a plurality of  
 6 input data signals via a group of input data signal lines of the plurality of input data signal  
 7 lines; and

8 wherein the output monitor signal is transmitted to [one of a data path of the  
 9 plurality of data paths and] the input monitor signal line of another junction circuit of the at  
 10 least one junction circuit, and the output data signals are transmitted to [one of a data path of  
 11 the plurality of data paths and] the group of input data signal lines of the another junction  
 12 circuit.

1 12. The data communication system of Claim 6, wherein the means for  
 2 controlling resetting includes at least one reset circuit included in at least one of the plurality  
 3 of junction data lines, and a control signal generator for generating a reset control signal  
 4 which controls the at least one reset circuit.

1           13.    The data communication system of Claim 6, wherein a respective junction  
2   data line of the plurality of junction data lines is connected to a discharge circuit for  
3   transferring at least one of the received input monitor signal and the plurality of data signals.

1           14.    The data communication system of claim 13, wherein the at least one  
2   discharge circuit includes a discharge device;  
3                    wherein the means for controlling resetting includes a control signal generator  
4   for generating a reset control signal which controls resetting the respective one junction  
5   circuit, and a virtual ground signal having a polarity different from the reset control signal;  
6   and  
7                    wherein the virtual ground signal is applied to the discharge device.

1           15.    The data communication system of Claim 12, wherein feedback  
2   signals are provided to the control signal generator.

1           16.    The data communication system of Claim 12, wherein the reset control signal  
2   prevents resetting of the plurality of junction data lines when the plurality of data signals and  
3   the input junction monitor signal are being received or processed by the junction data lines.

1           17.    The data communication system of Claim 12, wherein the input monitor signal  
2   is a pulse signal, and the reset control signal disables the at least one reset circuit for the  
3   duration of a pulse of the input monitor signal.

1           18.    The data communication system of Claim 12, wherein the reset circuit is a pre-  
2 charge circuit.

1           19.    The data communication system of Claim 12, wherein the reset  
2 control signal is a pulse signal generated by a pulse generator.

1           20.    The data communication system as in Claim 21, wherein the pulse generator is  
2 triggered by a signal indicative of the input monitor signal.

1           21.    A method for transferring data in a data communication system for a  
2 semiconductor memory system having at least one data path comprising the steps of:  
3                connecting a central data path to the at least one data path at a junction circuit;  
4                receiving data in the junction circuit;  
5                processing the data;  
6                transferring the data out of the junction circuit;  
7                resetting of the junction circuit for preparation for receipt of new data; and  
8                controlling the resetting to prevent resetting while the data is being at least one  
9 of received and processed.

1           22.    The method of Claim 21, further including the steps of:  
2                receiving an input monitor signal indicating that the data is being transferred  
3 to the junction circuit; and

1           outputting an output monitor signal indicating that the data is being transferred  
2   from the junction circuit.

1           23.    The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of controlling further  
2   includes the steps of:  
3           generating a reset control signal in accordance with receipt of the input  
4   monitor signal; and  
5           controlling via the reset control signal at least one reset circuit associated with  
6   data lines receiving data and the input monitor signal.

1           24.    The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of generating the reset  
2   control signal via a pulse generator; and  
3           triggering the pulse generator by a signal indicative of the input monitor  
4   signal.

1           25.    A data communication system for a semiconductor memory system  
2   having at least one data path, the data communication system comprising:  
3           means for connecting a central data path to the at least one data path at a  
4   junction circuit;  
5           means for receiving data in the junction circuit;  
6           means for processing the data;  
7           means for transferring the data out of the junction circuit;

1 means for resetting the junction circuit for preparation of receipt of new  
2 data; and  
3 means for controlling the resetting to prevent resetting while the data is being  
4 at least one of received and processed.

1 26. The data communication system of Claim 25, further comprising:  
2 means for receiving an input monitor signal indicating that the data is being  
3 transferred to the junction circuit; and  
4 means for outputting an output monitor signal indicating that the data is being  
5 transferred from the junction circuit.

1 27. The data communication system of Claim 26, wherein the means for  
2 controlling further includes:  
3 means for generating a reset control signal in accordance with receipt of the  
4 input monitor signal; and  
5 means for resetting including at least one reset circuit associated with data  
6 lines receiving data and the input monitor signal controlled via the reset control signal.

1 28. The data communication system of Claim 27, wherein the reset  
2 control signal is generated via a pulse generator, and further including means for triggering  
3 the pulse generator by a signal indicative of the input monitor signal.